

Gorbachev meets Shamir

MADRID (AP) — Yitzhak Shamir met Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday in a historic first encounter between Israeli and Soviet heads of government on the eve of the Madrid/Mideast peace conference. "Less than an hour ago, an historic meeting between President Gorbachev and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ended in this building," the Soviet embassy in Madrid, said Gorbachev spokesman Andrei Grachev. The meeting came two weeks after the Soviet Union ended a 24-year rupture by restoring diplomatic ties with Israel, thus meeting Israel's condition for Soviet participation in the peace talks beginning Wednesday. Mr. Shamir hurried from the embassy to talk with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and made no immediate comment, but Mr. Grachev portrayed the meeting to reporters as warm and forward-looking — a transformation from the days when Israel treated the Soviet Union as an arch-enemy. "Both sides agreed that both of them were damaged by the absence of diplomatic relations for such a long time. And they expressed hopes that they would be able to make up for this damage," Mr. Grachev said. Mr. Shamir "said that he understood Russian better at the end of the conversation than he did at the beginning," the spokesman said.



Jordan Times

Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحافية الأردنية

Volume 16 Number 4841

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1991, RABIE AL THANI 22, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Historic Mideast peace conference opens today

From Mahmoud Al Kayed and George Hawatmeh
in Madrid

A NEW CHAPTER in Middle East history begins here today with the ceremonial opening of Arab-Israeli negotiations under the umbrella of the internationally assembled conference for regional peace.

Participants and observers agree this is only the beginning of a process whose outcome is far from certain but which is a unique opportunity for finding a solution to the Palestinian problem and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict.

Nobody knows for sure what the results will be. Everyone, however, expects it to be a long and complicated process that can either bring about a fair and lasting settlement or end up in pushing the region towards even greater violence, instability and bloodshed.

"Because the stakes are so high, the Arab side at least has come here determined to give

peace its chance," Arab sources say. The outcome depends on whether the Israelis are willing to give up the territorial gains they made in 1967 in return for peaceful coexistence and good neighborly relations with the Arabs.

The "land-for-peace" formula is straight-forward and simple, but the Israelis have not yet matched Arab acceptance of it.

"Only if and when they do, can the real search for a comprehensive peace begin," according to Arab delegates.

For now, the role of the Madrid conference appears to be aimed at opening direct Arab-Israeli talks without expecting a commitment from Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. Since such a commitment is unlikely without American pressure on Israel, however, Mikhail Gorbachev will have to say to the conferees in the opening ceremony today, according to

direct — of pressure in the course of the process, with the biggest weapon being the American \$10 billion loan guarantees to Israel which will come up for discussion in the U.S. in February.

Israel will have to soften its rejection of trading land for peace not only because of its fear that the Bush administration might decide to deny Israel its request for the \$10 billion when the issue is discussed early next year.

It will be under pressure to do so also because the Arabs have finally met Israel's conditions for face-to-face talks, first at the Madrid conference and later in bilateral talks whose venue has apparently not been determined yet.

There were reports in the Madrid capital last night that Syria was still insisting on American and Soviet attendance of and involvement in bilateral talks, which the Israelis view as an obstacle to making progress in

negotiations. But the U.S. secretary of state was scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa last night to discuss the issue and to see whether Damascus would change its mind on its refusal to attend the multilateral talks on regional issues, in light of Saudi Arabia and Palestinian agreement to attend them in the third and final leg of peace negotiations.

According to informed sources here, agreement or discord on bilateral and multilateral talks would not surface until Friday, the last day of the conference, when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will be the last person to address the conference after all heads of delegation have replied to other formal addresses.

Much of what is going to happen at the conference and beyond will be largely determined by what presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev will have to say to the conferees in the opening ceremony today, according to

Arab sources. "It will also depend on Yitzhak Shamir and his speech," the sources say. "While we do not expect (President) Bush to promise direct pressure and imposing a settlement on Israel, we nevertheless hope that he and (President) Gorbachev will pledge to see this process to the end."

In a joint press conference held

here after two hours of talks Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev said while they would exert all efforts to make the peace parley a success they would not impose any solution on any party.

Members of the Joint

Jordanian-Palestinian delegation

say that short of imposing a settlement on the Israelis, the U.S. should press for and be able to secure a halt to the building of more or bigger Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"Such an achievement, more

than any other step, can create

the right atmosphere for the con-

ference and for the talks that should follow," a senior member of the delegation says. "If the Israelis will not commit them-

selves at the outset of the confer-

ence to withdrawing from the occu-

pied Arab territories, then at

least they can stop their settle-

ment activity and agree to

confidence-building measures ..."

the Palestinian delegates

maintain.

King believes settlement will be halted when peace talks begin

King believes settlement will be halted when peace talks begin

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said in an interview published Tuesday that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories will come to a halt when the Middle East peace conference starts.

"I believe there will be a halt to Israeli settlements with the beginning of the negotiating process," King Hussein told the London-based Al-Quds Al-Arabi.

"Any continuation in settlement construction will be among the reasons which might threaten the (peace) process from the beginning," the King said.

The issue of Israeli settlements is considered "very crucial" to Arab, he said.

King Hussein expressed hope that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the

Madrid peace conference will carry out its duty and fulfil the Arab people's aspirations.

The joint delegation is backed in its endeavours by very wide sector of the Jordanian and Palestinian people and by the Arab World at large, the King said.

"After these long years of agony and lost opportunities, we have reached a high degree of awareness that makes it clear to us to shoulder our responsibilities as Palestinians and Jordanians," the King said.

The King said the question of settlements lies at the heart of the negotiations.

"I believe that the continuation of the settlement programme could jeopardise the peace process right from the beginning



events befalling our kinsmen and our brothers in Palestine." "There are trends in the Arab World towards extremism and there are certain groups in Israel and in the Arab world who have their own selfish ambitions," the King said. "Therefore if the

(Continued on page 2)

Crown Prince: Regional issues directly linked

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday emphasized the importance of talks on regional issues among the various parties in the Middle East and said there cannot be any circumventing of the direct linkage among the regional issues.

The Crown Prince, in an interview with Mexican Television, also voiced appreciation for the U.S. initiative which led to the Middle East peace conference, which opens in Madrid Wednesday.

"This is not the time to raise slogans (or) to be emotional," the Crown Prince said. "It is time to express our appreciation for the sponsorship of this conference, in particular, the U.S. initiative of March of this year which we feel was a principal initiative in that it emphasised the importance of land for peace," the Crown Prince told interviewer Alka Ben Razai.

"It is also a time to remind the

(Continued on page 2)

Arafat calls on Palestinians to support delegates

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat urged Palestinians Tuesday to support a joint delegation with Jordan representing them at historic Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Arafat's address, played on a videotape at East Jerusalem's Al Hakawati Theatre, was shown to reporters in Tunis.

"This delegation represents all children, women and men in the interior and exterior of the occupied territories," Mr. Arafat said on the videotape.

"It is dedicated to challenging the Zionist enemy and all those who tried to frustrate the Palestinian people and their cause for decades," Mr. Arafat said.

The address, where Mr. Arafat affirmed the necessity to support our delegation at the Madrid conference, was an implicit call for Palestinians to spurn extremist factions rejecting the talks.

Mr. Arafat deplored a recent meeting in Tehran by the so-called "Conference for the support of the Islamic Revolution in Palestine" that set a day of "anger and protest" Oct. 30.

(Continued on page 2)

Bush, Gorbachev pledge all efforts, but say no imposed solutions

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev pledged Tuesday to use "all the remedies at our disposal" to nudge Arabs and Israelis towards peace, but said they would not try to dictate a settlement at the Middle East peace talks.

The U.S. and Soviet leaders, meeting in Madrid to launch the peace talks, urged Israel and the Arabs not to let slip the greatest chance of peace in decades.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev, co-sponsors of the talks opening Wednesday, appealed at a joint news conference to all sides to be constructive.

Mr. Bush warned before leaving Washington that the talks, fruit of eight months of U.S.

shuttle diplomacy, would be long and hard. But he told reporters in Madrid: "This is historic because people are sitting down to talk to each other for the first time."

Without spelling out the U.S. interpretation, he stressed the talks would be based on U.N. Resolution 242, which called for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem which it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war in exchange for peace with Arab states.

Mr. Bush said he and Mr. Gorbachev had "yet another very constructive meeting" on the eve of the Mideast peace talks.

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians see autonomy step to statehood, confederation

MADRID (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiators at the Middle East peace conference will seek agreement on autonomy in the Israeli-occupied territories as a stepping stone to statehood, a senior official said Tuesday.

Faisal Husseini, a key negotiator in talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker leading up to the conference, said such a state would eventually confederate with Jordan.

The Palestinians will demand

Israel freeze settlement construction in the occupied territories, but will stay at the talks no matter how tough the bargaining, delegates and advisers said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told NBC television on Monday that everything, including the Israeli-Palestinian dispute over land, could be brought to the Madrid negotiations.

"For a long time we have heard nothing but statements of intransigence and entrenchment and attempts at derailing the peace process," Dr. Ashrawi said.

"This morning we were pleasantly surprised to hear a new tone, a softer tone from Israel..."

it is significant and important... I think this is an indication of a less hardline position and perhaps more willingness to move the peace process in a positive way."

Mr. Shamir said of counter-claims to the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, "we are convinced it belongs to us since thousands of years. And maybe the Palestinians believe the same. Then let us negotiate how to settle it."

But he added that willingness to negotiate did not mean "that we will give up this or that."

Dr. Ashrawi qualified her enthusiasm, however, saying: "What we have to know is whether this verbal position actually has substance on the ground or is translated into effective action in terms of settlements and all the measures against the occupied territories."

This would become clear when bilateral talks between Israel and the Palestinian delegation began.

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir: Everything on table

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak Shamir has said that "everything could be brought on the table of negotiations" at the Arab-Israeli peace conference.

In an interview with NBC News Mr. Shamir was asked if he would consider giving up land for peace and bringing back settlers from Arab soil.

"Everything could be brought on the table of negotiations. It doesn't mean that we will give up this or that," he replied.

On the issue of trading land for peace he said: "We believe that it belongs to us since thousands of years. And maybe the Palestinians believe the same. Then let us negotiate how to settle it, how to find a way to avoid war."

Mr. Shamir, interviewed in Israel a day before his departure as head of Israel's delegation to the peace talks in Madrid, said the time was ripe for ending war

and suffering.

"I think the Arab mass and especially the Palestinians have enough of it. They are fed up with it. And it's time to make a change, a revolutionary change, to make peace."

Asked if he would agree to freeze Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories, Mr. Shamir said: "We will not accept any preconditions. They can raise whatever they wish on the agenda of the talks, in the negotiations, but we will not accept any pre-conditions."

Israel is willing to negotiate the withdrawal of its soldiers from southern Lebanon, the Israeli official in charge of Lebanese policy said Monday in a discussion on the peace conference.

"I think (a withdrawal) is part of what will have to be the subject of negotiations now between us and the Lebanese," Uri Lubrani said.

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Questions remain over means to change bilateral talks into comprehensive solution

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ARAB LEADERS enter their first collective peace talks with Israel today united in their demand for a comprehensive solution based on swapping land for peace, but without a unified negotiating strategy.

Judging by official statements and interviews with Arab officials, there is no strategy on how to turn bilateral talks with Israel into a comprehensive Arab-Israeli negotiation.

The absence of a unified Arab strategy, Arab analysts warn, will only further an Arab position already weakened by the serious imbalance resulting from the decline of Soviet influence and the Iraqi military defeat in the Gulf war.

Although analysts differ in their assessment of the Soviet role or the level of influence that Moscow can assert as a

NEWS ANALYSIS

organisation will pull out the Palestinian delegation if Israel refused to stop the building of the settlements. In practice, however, the PLO might not be able to carry out its threat without strong support by the Arab countries.

Palestinian officials expect the organisation to come under tremendous international, and probably Arab pressure not to immediately withdraw so as

not to be blamed for blocking the talks.

Statements by PLO officials and Palestinian delegates to Madrid indicated hope that once the negotiations started the U.S. and the Soviet Union will pressure Israel to comply. The U.S. has not made any pledges concerning the settlements in its letter of assurances to the Palestinians and the Arab governments. But according to Palestinian and other Arab officials, U.S. administration officials have indicated to the Arab and Palestinian leaders that Washington will make sure that there will be a cessation of the settlements once the negotiations started.

In an interview with Jordan Television's Arabic channel on Sunday, Palestinian delegate Ghassan Al Khateeb expressed hope that the conference will

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Two million people may claim damages from Iraq

GENEVA (R) — Up to two million people may claim damages from Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait, the head of the U.N. body that will process the claims said Tuesday.

Belgian Ambassador Philippe Berg, chairman of the governing council of the U.N. Compensation Fund, said it was possible that 1.5 million to two million people who left Kuwait or Iraq during the seven-month occupation of Kuwait might file claims.

If each asked only for the \$2,500 fixed amount being offered to anyone without proof of losses, that would mean small claims totalling \$3.75 billion to \$5 billion.

However, the council is weighing a proposal to raise the fixed amount to \$5,000, and people with documentation of losses will be able to file for unlimited amounts — leaving a potential for tens of billions of dollars of individual claims.

The U.N. Security Council, whose 15 members comprise the fund's governing council, has decided to siphon off a portion — up to a maximum of 30 per cent — of Iraqi oil revenues to pay for the losses.

It has authorised temporary sales worth \$1.6 billion but will only allow unlimited sales once it is satisfied Iraq's chemical, biological, nuclear and ballistic missile weapon programmes are destroyed or being destroyed.

Iraq is refusing to export any oil because it is unhappy with U.N. supervision and diversion of its revenues, so the compensation fund is dry.

"If there is no movement in oil, by deduction we have to face a situation where no money is going to come into the fund," Mr. Berg told a news conference.

Nonetheless, the governing council is taking steps to prepare the ground for getting its share of oil revenues when and if exports do begin.

In a week-long meeting that ended on Oct. 18, it adopted a complex mechanism for tanning Iraq's oil revenues once sanctions are lifted.

A confidential study prepared

U.N. seated on sidelines in Madrid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After years of anti-Israel resolutions and rhetoric, the United Nations now finds itself relegated to observer status at the Middle East peace conference, a role that rankles the secretary-general.

Israel, which owes its existence to the 1947 U.N. vote to end the British mandate of Palestine and create two Jewish and Arab states, refused to accept full participation by the world body at the conference in Madrid.

The United Nations will be seated as an observer when the talks open Wednesday, represented by the secretary-general's personal representative to the Middle East, Swiss diplomat Edouard Brunner.

"I believe that this is not enough," Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said of the non-participant status of the world body.

"If that is all they are going to offer the United Nations, it is insufficient and unfair," he told a news conference last month.

"We should not forget that Israel is the creation of the United Nations Organisation and that the framework of any Middle East solution has to be the two Security Council resolutions, 242 (of 1967) and 338 (of 1973)."

Those resolutions call for peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and lay the groundwork of a land-for-peace deal.

Israel says it has every reason to be wary of the United Nations, after some two decades of anti-Israel resolutions, rhetoric and policies that have been issued by the world body.

The most ranking U.N. policy is the General Assembly's 1975 resolution declaring Zionism to be a form of racism, a measure targeted by the United States and Israel for repeal by the end of this assembly session.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has denounced that resolution, but his views tend to be lost in the chorus of anti-Israel statements that have emanated from the United Nations.

Shamir

(Continued from page 1) them to be "very long and protracted and complicated negotiations that will go up and down, up and down."

Asked by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) if Israel was prepared to cede territory for the sake of peace, he said: "Just let's talk about what can be done in order to achieve peace ... the idea is to discuss everything which separates one side from another."

In Madrid Mr. Shamir said the killing of Israeli soldiers and settlers would not derail the peace talks.

"Some might have expected that in the face of this terror, Israel would not attend the conference, but despite this violence, our press for peace is unrelenting," Mr. Shamir told reporters after arriving in Madrid.

As Mr. Shamir was flying to the talks news broke that guerrillas had killed at least three Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon.

On Monday night unknown assailants ambushed a bus carrying Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank killing two and wounding five.

"We all who desire true peace should unite in condemning without any reservation these unspeakable acts," Mr. Shamir, 76, said.

We hope that here in Madrid will begin a process to realise our greatest aspirations. We do not wish to wait any longer for peace and truly plead as if our counterparts have come here in the same spirit our years of waiting will come to an end," said Mr. Shamir.

British newspaper editor in Israeli arms row sacked

LONDON (Agencies) — The Daily Mirror newspaper has sacked foreign editor Nicholas Davies, who is at the centre of allegations that he spied for Israel.

Mirror group newspapers said in a statement Nicholas Davies was dismissed by editor Richard Stott after Mr. Davies' "absolute denials" about a visit to Ohio in the United States proved to be untrue.

It said it had no doubt allegations he spied for Israel were "wholly untrue."

"Mr. Davies was aware of the defence the paper was mounting on his behalf. Regrettably, his absolute denials on the Ohio questions, on which the paper was entitled to rely, were not true," the statement said.

"Mr. Stott had, therefore, no alternative but to dismiss him in accordance with the company's rules," it added.

Mr. Davies has the right to appeal to Mirror group publisher Robert Maxwell, who has sued U.S. author Seymour Hersh for libel over the allegations in his book "The Samson Option, Israel, America and the Bomb."

Mr. Davies has denied the allegations.

He had also denied visiting Ohio in 1985 although he later said he had been there to visit the American使團 for a story.

Last Friday another British newspaper, the Daily Mail, published a photograph it said apparently showed Mr. Davies at an arms dealer's Ohio home.

On Friday the Daily Mirror quoted Mr. Davies as saying he met Charles Benjamin Kaufman, a former arms dealer, while he was visiting Amish areas in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He was quoted as saying they went for a walk and there was no mention of arms trading.

British politicians sought an inquiry into these and other claims in the book of alleged links between the Daily Mirror and Israeli Mossad intelligence.

The Conservative Party's Rupert Allason and the opposition Labour Party's Genrie Galloway raised the allegations in parliament.

Taken from the book, they allege Mr. Davies was involved in Israeli arms deals with Iran and helped Mossad kidnappers find Israeli nuclear scientist Mordechai Vanunu, jailed for treason in 1988.

Mr. Hersh, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, was served with libel writs on Thursday while in London defending the allegations made in his book. The writs were served on behalf of Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Davies and Mirror group newspapers.

The allegations concerning Mr. Vanunu and Mossad, the statement said: "We have no doubt they are wholly untrue, and the Daily Mirror does not retract or retreat from a single word of what it said in Mr. Davies' defence on these questions..."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Mohammad Abbadi 778999
Dr. Adel Dahdouh 612177
Dr. Abdellatif 612177
Dr. Hamed Al-Haddad 731265
First pharmacy 661912
Fordous pharmacy 778336
Al Aseer pharmacy 637035
Nafrak pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeissani pharmacy 637665

IRBD: Dr. Abdal Majid Sabri (—)
Al Shara'a pharmacy (273825)

ZARQA: Dr. Khalil Abu Hussain (—)
Khalil pharmacy 985417

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min/max. temp.
Ammun 12 / 27
Aqaba 17 / 30
Daraa 11 / 27
Jordan Valley 16 / 31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellifield, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632765
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 621757
Terra Santa Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Assumption Tel.

623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623363, Tel. 625450
Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assyrian International Church Tel. 653262
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623654, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 673691.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Algerian wives win right to vote

ALGIERS (R) — Wives won the right to vote in Algeria's first multi-party election when the constitutional council Monday threw out a law that would let husbands vote in their place. The council ruled that an article of the new electoral law allowing one married partner to vote for another did not conform with Algeria's constitution, which bans sexual or religious discrimination. The Algerian National Assembly, dominated by members of the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), had approved the article saying it wanted to avoid "sowing doubt and anarchy into the lives of (married) couples." Although wives could in theory vote for their husbands, critics of the article said tradition in male-dominated Algerian society would ensure that wives would be denied the right to elect the 430 members of the next National Assembly in the Dec. 26 poll. Opponents of the measure included feminist groups, the government and pro-democracy parties. President Chadli Benjedid referred the law to the council, which has seven members — two named by parliament, by the president. The council meets in private to decide whether laws are constitutional. The general election was due last June 27 but postponed after riots by Islamic fundamentalists.

The United Nations will be seated as an observer when the talks open Wednesday, represented by the secretary-general's personal representative to the Middle East, Swiss diplomat Edouard Brunner.

"I believe that this is not enough," Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said of the non-participant status of the world body.

"If that is all they are going to offer the United Nations, it is insufficient and unfair," he told a news conference last month.

"We should not forget that Israel is the creation of the United Nations Organisation and that the framework of any Middle East solution has to be the two Security Council resolutions, 242 (of 1967) and 338 (of 1973)."

Those resolutions call for peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and lay the groundwork of a land-for-peace deal.

Israel says it has every reason to be wary of the United Nations, after some two decades of anti-Israel resolutions, rhetoric and policies that have been issued by the world body.

The most ranking U.N. policy is the General Assembly's 1975 resolution declaring Zionism to be a form of racism, a measure targeted by the United States and Israel for repeal by the end of this assembly session.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has denounced that resolution, but his views tend to be lost in the chorus of anti-Israel statements that have emanated from the United Nations.

Pakistani diplomat summoned by Afghans

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Afghan Foreign Ministry summoned Pakistan's top diplomat in Kabul Monday to protest over what it said was a plot to blow up three of the country's hydroelectric dams.

Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, reported that the Afghan government had exact information about plans by the Pakistani army and intelligence services to destroy the dams.

The protests, charged by the president of the Afghan guerrilla government-in-exile in Pakistan that Pakistani military officials were planning to attack Kajaki Dam in western Afghanistan and Naghlu and Darunta in the east.

The president, Sibghatullah Mojadidi, has been angered by being ousted from a guerrilla delegation he was due to lead to Moscow next week to discuss ways of ending Afghanistan's 13-year-old civil war.

Hundreds of drug traffickers held in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Security agents in Iran arrested 871 alleged drug smugglers and seized more than 2,000 kilogrammes in two weeks, Tehran Radio reported Monday. The broadcast said 17 of the traffickers were from neighbouring Afghanistan. It said 2,120 kilogrammes of various drugs were confiscated in the two-week swoop, launched Oct. 8 in nine provinces. The operation also netted 18 guns and 22 vehicles used to transport narcotics, the radio said.

Tens of thousands of so-called drug smugglers and addicts have been rounded up in Iran since December 1988. The government has hanged more than 2,500 people, including women and foreigners, on charges of drug-trafficking charges. Exile Iranian opposition groups allege that the drug-charges are an excuse to get rid of government opponents.

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Tehran-Cairo could restore ties

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian parliamentary commission on Monday asked the government to restore ties with Egypt, the only Arab country where Iran lacks an embassy. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the parliament's foreign relations commission sent a proposal to the Foreign Ministry, asking it to "study, with special priority," the improvement of ties with Cairo.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, a so-called moderate, has been trying to temper his country's revolutionary fervor, and restore ties with all Arab countries and the West. Soon after the Gulf war, Tehran and Cairo reopened interest sections in each others' capitals closed in 1987.

King believes settlement will be halted

(Continued from page 1)

Jerusalem was occupied in the 1967 war and Israel considers this as part of what it calls "greater Jerusalem." But this accounts for one fifth of the whole occupied West Bank. This question, along with the Israeli settlements, will be discussed at the peace conference," the King said.

He said unless a just and sustainable peace based on justice is achieved, the consequences would be extremely bad for all.

The King noted that many changes had occurred in the Middle East, affecting all parties and said that "Israel had considered itself in the past as a 'vanguard force protecting certain interests vis-a-vis another camp. But this situation has changed as the other camp exists no more and hence Israel's status in the eyes of others has drastically changed."

King Hussein said that such factors have their own effect on the future of the whole region and on the nature of a solution to the conflict.

King Hussein said that cohesion among Jordanians "is something that one can only feel proud of."

"National unity in Jordan is essential and is considered as an embodiment of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt," he added.

King Hussein noted that Arab

Nazareth and other holy places under occupation.

The King has repeatedly said that settlement constructions were illegal and warned that they would seriously hinder the Middle East peace drive.

President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have also criticised the settlements, saying they were an obstacle to peace.

On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told reporters after his departure for peace talks in Madrid, that the Jewish state would not halt building in the occupied territories.

Palestinian activists Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini, the main negotiators of peace terms with Mr. Baker, have been vying for U.S. assurances that Israel would freeze construction in the territories at the start of the talks in Madrid Wednesday.

But officials said Palestinians have not received any American guarantee on the issue. They said Palestinians expect the United States to pressure Israel at the peace conference to halt settlements.

There are fears the conference will be disrupted if the settlements issue is not raised at the beginning.

Crown Prince stresses linkage of issues

(Continued from page 1)

world that those who are participating in this conference are clearly there to promote moderation and to promote a search for common ground based on common interest," he said.

At the same time, the Crown Prince warned, "if this exercise is to be aborted, then clearly we will not be engaged in a process which we all seek, but we will have given the opportunity to those who, expecting and anticipating a failure of this political exercise, to say their year is, we told you



Representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO), address meeting reviewing the activities of the local office of WHO's Centre for Environmental Health Activities

Health official commends CEHA's efforts in promoting public welfare

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) gathered here Tuesday for a three-day meeting designed to assess the activities and achievements of WHO's regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), which is based in Amman, and the centre's plan of action for 1992 and 1993.

Acting for Health Minister Mamoud Abadi, Ministry of Health Secretary General Dr. Adnan Abbas opened the meetings with a speech underlining the importance of CEHA's operations in the Arab region.

Dr. Hassan Baroudi WHO regional representative, cam-

mended the role of the Health Ministry in promoting health levels and in backing projects carried out to promote sanitation and public health in the Kingdom.

Dr. Baroudi called for increased cooperation between CEHA and the Health Ministry to achieve these common goals.

Dr. Abbas paid tribute to WHO and CEHA for helping Jordan promote its expertise in health-related matters and activities designed to protect public health.

WHO officials said that the seminar was designed to enable health workers and experts to exchange views about environmental health within the eastern Mediterranean region and to dis-

cuss problems related to water and sanitation.

CEHA officials said that representatives of Pakistan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Jordan are represented at the meeting, which is considered as the third meeting of a regional technical advisory committee to be held in Amman.

They said the committee will evaluate CEHA's achievements and review a proposed plan for 1992 and 1993. The committee will also issue recommendations for CEHA's future direction which can be used as guidelines for long-term goals, technical emphasis and improvement of operational efficiency.

Questions remain over means to change talks

(Continued from page 1)

focus international attention on Israel's defiance and illegal position and build up pressure on Tel Aviv to abide by international law.

But assuming that international pressure will take time to accumulate and be transformed into action, it remains under how the Arabs will move on to the more complicated issue of Israeli withdrawal without ensuring a freeze on settlements.

The U.S. has made it clear that it will not allow any obstacle on front or issue to hinder the progress of the talks — making it difficult for the Arab leaders to pursue their declared objective of striking a linkage between all phases, and all issues at all fronts of negotiations.

Secondly, the Arab parties going into the negotiations differ on the timing of the third phase of the talks — multi-lateral discussions on regional security and economic arrangements, which are scheduled to take place two weeks after the opening of the conference.

Damascus has called on the Arabs to boycott the multi-lateral regional talks if Israel refused to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. Jordan had already promised the U.S. to attend prior to the Syrian request.

Egypt which will only attend the conference as an observer but is expected to play a very influential role, is pressing all the Arab parties to attend the regional talks in accordance with the agenda, according to Arab officials.

The PLO had initially firmly backed the Syrian call but recent statements by members of the Palestinian delegation indicated a possible shift of position.

The apparent shift was contained in statements made by Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to Madrid; she said last Friday that there should not be a move towards the multi-lateral talks before "complete progress" was made on the Palestinian issue.

Later Sunday, upon her return from a visit to Egypt, Dr. Ashrawi implied that the Palestinians might accept that the agenda proceeds as scheduled provided the Arabs agree among each other that no agreement be signed until all issues are settled.

"It is not a matter of timing but of substance," she told reporters in Amman. "There is a difference between attending and signing."

PLO officials said that Cairo

Fund allocates JD 1.2 million to poor

AMMAN (Petra) — Abdulla Abu Ayash, director of the Development and Employment Fund (DEF), said the fund had spent JD 1.2 million during the last six months to finance projects in the agricultural, service and handicraft fields.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abu Ayash said the fund usually finances projects set up by individuals and societies. In doing so, the fund follows two methods — a direct one and an indirect one.

Under the direct method, the fund itself undertakes studies aimed at evaluating the feasibility of the projects proposed for implementation. Based on the findings of the evaluative studies, the fund provides the necessary funds.

The second method is different since it is carried out through intermediary institutions, who are well-known for their vast experience and outreach.

Under this method, the fund signs agreements with such institutions.

He pointed out that the fund had concluded agreements with the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), the Industrial Development Bank and the Vocational Training Corporation.

Therefore what the PLO and Jordan are expected to seek in a commitment by all the Arab parties that no final agreement will be signed before reaching a comprehensive resolution to all the disputes, especially the Palestinian problem.

The Damascus declaration contains such an agreement, but it is not binding.

To ensure that Israel will not try to get each Arab government to sign separately, the Arab foreign ministers, who are leading their countries' delegations have agreed to maintain continuous coordination throughout the talks.

But, according to Arab politicians and analysts, the efficiency of this planned negotiations will hinge on the course of inter-Arab relations. Although the Damascus meeting has succeeded in melting the ice between many of the Arab parties involved, mistrust, partly as a direct result of the Gulf war, prevails, the analysts point out.

"It is not a matter of timing but of substance," she told reporters in Amman. "There is a difference between attending and signing."

PLO officials said that Cairo

Parliamentarian calls for improvements in schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament member Nayef Al Hadid has urged the Ministry of Education to set up a committee to study the condition of government schools in the southern Amman regions.

In a message to Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat, Mr. Hadid said that the schools in some parts of southern Amman lack sanitary facilities and other essential services as well as school yards for children. He called on the Ministry of Education to allocate funds to help solve the problems in southern Amman.

The House member also commented on a memorandum he had received from the minister of education about the school buildings in a number of towns and villages in areas south of Amman by saying that the buildings planned for the region would not serve the purpose as they lack proper facilities and do not cater to the needs of the students.

Papers call for greater freedom for Arab women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in a five-day seminar on population, education and the role of Arab women Tuesday reviewed a working paper from Sudan dealing with the educational systems of that country, illiteracy rates among Sudanese women, women in employment and legislation on women's participation in public life.

The paper, submitted by Dr. Amnech Al Badri, recommended that intensified public awareness and guidance programmes be engineered and that the conditions of rural women be improved.

The paper urged universities to teach domestic science subjects and to allocate special budgets to finance women training programmes.

A working paper from Palestine reviewed Palestinian women's contributions to the educational and economic sectors in Palestine. The paper, submitted by Khadijeh Abu Alia, recommended that Geneva conventions concerning women be implemented in the occupied Arab territories. The researcher also

Ashrawi: Palestinians confident heading into negotiations



Hanan Ashrawi
now very positive for the Palestinians because of the global focus on human rights and the determination to apply international legitimacy as embodied in U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The international atmosphere is

right to demand their rights and that international legitimacy be applied to their cause, she said. She added that the American administration is serious in establishing peace in the region and likes to see peace and stability prevail in this region.

Dr. Ashrawi said that Israel is no longer the strategic ally of the United States, adding that it has become a strategic burden on America and is exhausting the American resources. She pointed out that Israel can no longer view itself as an extension to the West and should, therefore, strive to fit in the region through achieving an understanding with the countries of the area.

The Palestinian side is confident that despite entering into negotiations concerning a transitional period or autonomy, this will not be the end result, she said.

The Palestinian side has re-

ceived guarantees that these are only transitional phases conducive to a final solution.

"The absence of peace has cost us dearly and we are willing to pay the same price for establishing peace," she said.

On the talks with the Jordanian government, Dr. Ashrawi said, "We have achieved tremendous achievements in our talks with the Jordanian government in terms of forming the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and ensuring political coordination."

She noted that the Palestinian delegation also coordinated with the Egyptian side, which voiced preparedness to support the Palestinian delega-

tion. She stressed the importance of inter-Arab coordination and noted in particular the importance of the meeting in Damascus last week of the foreign ministers of Arab countries bordering Israel.

Official: International community failing to answer Jordan's call for aid

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's urgent appeal for international aid to help resettle around 300,000 returnees from Kuwait and other Gulf states has gone unanswered, according to an official at the Interior Ministry.

Last week, Salameh Hammad, the chairman of the government-appointed Returnees Welfare Committee, issued an urgent appeal on behalf of the committee to international and humanitarian organisations as well as the United Nations and countries friendly to Jordan in order to help the Kingdom "confront this serious humanitarian issue of unprecedented proportions."

A total of 14 countries are represented at the meeting, which was organised by the regional office of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Between Aug. 6 and Oct. 21, around 35,860 expatriates have returned from Kuwait, said Mr. Hammad, who is also the secretary general of the Ministry of interior. He added that he did not expect the number of expatriates to increase by the end of this year, but stressed that the problem lies with helping those already

in the Kingdom and those who came in with a small amount of money that has already been spent.

The problem of the expatriates is a continuous one. Many local charities are helping us by giving in kind donations," Mr. Hammad said. "But the problem with this is many of these expatriates refuse to ask the charities for this kind of help because their dignity will not allow them to."

The committee established to relieve the plight of the

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Minister reviews youth activities

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Saleh Isheidat Tuesday met in Fuheis City with heads of the sports clubs and municipal and rural councils in the governorate in a meeting which was attended by Balqa Governor Fahed Gharibeh. Dr. Isheidat stressed the importance of holding such meetings in supporting youth and sports activities and in defining the needs of the youth. He said the government is keen to serve the youth sector and for this purpose has established a national fund for supporting the youth movement and sports activities.

According to Dr. Farouk Taher Al Khanib, the society's secretary, the participants will discuss a number of working papers prepared by a group of Swedish and Jordanian physicians. The papers, he said, tackle types of disabilities in Jordan in general and Jordanian experiments in caring for handicapped people.

Nearly 50 per cent of the studies and research papers were prepared by the Jordanian side, according to the organisers.

Valley to be sprayed with insecticides

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agriculture Department in the southern Jordan Valley region Tuesday organised an insecticide spraying campaign in areas planted with vegetables. Department Director Jamil Jazrafi said the campaign, which will last for two days, will include the areas of Safi, Fifa, Al Mazraa and Al Haditha. The same campaign will be repeated four days later to ensure good results.

Work of pharmacists' praised

IRBID (Petra) — The Faculty of Pharmacy at the Jordan University of Science and Technology Tuesday organised a seminar with workers and owners of poultry farms the problems they encounter as a result of the high costs of production inputs, fluctuation of production and prices and the absence of a government policy to organise the sector. The farmers called for supporting the poultry sector and stressed the need to set up modern poultry farms and slaughter houses by the private sector. They also called for floating prices of poultry by the government should take into consideration the high costs of production and the competition by imported frozen chicken.

INVITATION FOR OFFICE RENTAL

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) requires the rental of offices near its UTG Building in Al-Shmaissani, in accordance with the following specifications:

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Please contact ESCWA General Services Section at tel: 694351, ext. 107 between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. from Sunday through Thursday.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

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Director General:
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

The olive branch

JORDAN HAS cause to be both enthusiastic and apprehensive at the start of the Madrid conference. Embroiled in the middle of the conflict, Jordan has since the 1967 war sought to achieve peace in the region. The Jordanian leadership has lobbied Arabs, Palestinians and super and regional powers to press for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. His Majesty King Hussein travelled to the four corners of the globe rallying leaders and nations to press for the convening of an international peace conference. It is thus that Jordan looks at Madrid with hope. But the country is also apprehensive because during the past two decades all its efforts and the efforts of many peace-loving nations and leaders were aborted by the intransigence of the Israeli leaders. This country has suffered over the years as a result of the conflict. Since 1948, Jordan had to shoulder the burden of having to receive most of the Palestinian refugees and to face the Arab Nation's common enemy, Israel. At the same time, the country had to face tremendous pressures — both internal and external, from foe as well as from friend and brother.

As the conference opens in Madrid today, many Jordaniens pray for its success and dread its failure. For us in Jordan and for the world at large this will be a historical turning point. If the Madrid conference succeeded, the region will head for tranquillity, prosperity and peace. If, God forbid, it failed, the area would slump into chaos that will ultimately lead to catastrophe and misery.

As King Hussein has repeated many times this could be the last opportunity for peace. Much of the credit for the convening of the conference goes to the Americans: President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in particular. Both men, especially Secretary Baker, have put much of their time and effort to clear all the hurdles to Madrid. And much still depends on the Americans. Despite President Bush's protestations that it is up to the antagonists to negotiate peace, the gulf between the Arabs on one side and the Israelis on the other is still very wide. The Arabs, after years of concessions, demand the return of the occupied territories and the realisation of Palestinian political rights. The Israelis say "no" to both demands. To move both sides towards a compromise would require even more arduous efforts by the Americans, the Soviets and the Europeans.

It goes without saying that if this process failed, the Middle East would certainly head towards more violence and bloodshed. The region in fact cannot afford a failure. This has been the contention of the Jordanian leadership. The Arabs, and the Israelis as well, stand to gain a great deal from the achievement of peace. For forty years the two parties fought and both lost in different ways in a bitter dispute that unless resolved peacefully will lead to catastrophe. Both Arabs and Israelis dream of a region that, like Europe, would be an oasis of peace, tranquillity and prosperity. This can only be attained through the demolition of all the barriers of hostility, fear and prejudice. For many years the Palestinians have been holding an olive branch on one hand and a gun on the other. On Monday Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators arrived in Madrid, holding olive branches. They chose to do so as a symbolic gesture that they intend to make peace. It is now up to the Israeli side to show the same inclination. The Middle East is at a crossroads. The Arabs have chosen the path to peace. Will the Israelis do likewise?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The Arabs are in Madrid for the sake of achieving the aspirations of the present and future generations to lasting and honourable peace in the Middle East, said Al Ra'l Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper said that peace is the dream of all people in the region and, should the negotiations succeed in their endeavour, it would be a victory for persons everywhere and a triumph for justice over evil. There can be no room for security or stability in this region the paper said, without a genuine peace based on justice and an end to terrorism and occupation. There must be a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has caused so much suffering for so many people in the region, and Arab rights in Palestine have to be re-established and the homeland of the oppressed Palestinians should be restored to its lawful owners if a real peace is to be achieved, stressed the daily. The paper said that if peace is established, there will be gains for all parties and there will be hope for the future generations of this region. But, it added, should failure be the end of the negotiations, no one can predict the magnitude of the tragedies that await the people in the near or distant future. What the Arab masses hope to see, stressed the paper, is the implementation of international legitimacy because they look with hope towards the so-called new world order that has been advocated by the United States and is being peddled under the umbrella of the United Nations.

It seems that the unprecedented serious American position with regard to the achievement of peace in the Middle East has embarrassed Israel, which finds itself besieged on all fronts, said Sawt Al Shabab daily Tuesday. The Israeli leadership now feels that their expansionist designs are jeopardised by the American administration's stand, which is showing not only seriousness this time, but also some kind of neutrality with regard to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, the paper said. Israel's apprehensions, the paper said, stem from the fact that it has never before seen such an attitude on the part of the United States. Therefore, the paper said, one should not be surprised to hear Israeli officials launching an attack on U.S. policies which seem to be restricting Israel's ambitions and containing its lust for expansion at the expense of Arab countries. The paper said there was no need for such apprehension on the part of Israel, which realised all along that the idea of the peace conference had always been to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions.

By Francesca Gee
Reuter

MADRID — Five centuries ago, a triumphant Roman Catholic Spain ruthlessly expelled Muslims and Jews who lived peacefully side by side under a great Moorish culture.

As host to historic Middle East peace talks opening on Wednesday, Spain now hopes to provide the setting for reconciling the two peoples it once drove out.

The very name of the Spanish capital where Israeli and Arab delegates will try to end a bloody 43-year conflict comes from the Arabic Madjribith, as its Moorish rulers once called it.

Spain has long had privileged links with the Arab World. Its relations with Israel, by

contrast, have improved only recently. A deep-rooted mistrust between General Francisco Franco and the Jewish state prevented the two countries edging closer until after the dictator's death in 1975.

Diplomatic relations were established only five years ago by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who, in a delicate balancing act, granted official status to a PLO office soon afterwards.

Spanish involvement in the search for Middle East peace goes back many years, however.

As early as 1955, American Jewish leaders asked Gen. Franco if he would act as mediator between Israel and its Arab foes. Gen. Franco said he would if the Arabs asked him. The scheme went nowhere.

In 1980, King Juan Carlos offered to use his ties with moderate Arab leaders to promote Middle East peace in exchange for a U.S. promise to help Spain gain early entry to NATO. Under Mr. Gonzalez, Spain has called repeatedly for peace talks.

Jewish culture flourished under Muslim rule in medieval Spain, producing giants of literature and philosophy such as Maimonides and Solomon Ibn Gabiro.

Toledo, where Christians, Muslims and Jews lived together in peace, was once called the Jerusalem of the West for its mosques, churches and synagogues.

During that golden age, Jews in Spain were physicians, scholars and translators. They also played a prominent role in banking and

commerce, and some historians attribute Spain's economic decline from the 16th century to the expulsion of Jews.

The "Catholic monarchs" Ferdinand and Isabella told them to convert to Christianity or leave in 1492, when the last Arabs were driven from their Alhambra fortress in southern Spain.

An estimated two-thirds of Spain's 400,000 Jews fled, mostly to Turkey and North Africa, to form the Sephardic community.

Many still speak Ladino, a medieval Spanish, and some families have kept to this day the keys of their homes in Spain — Sephard in Hebrew — in the hope of coming back.

The expulsion decree was repealed only in 1968, although Jews started trickling back to

Spain during World War II to form a 12,000-strong community.

A 1982 law granted Spanish citizenship to descendants of the Jews expelled in 1492. A few years, mostly from North Africa, have taken the opportunity to return to Spain.

Arabs have also come back to the land they once called Al Andalus and which was the main Arab outpost in Europe. Using oil money, they have been buying real estate all over Spain.

A mosque opened 10 years ago by Saudi King Fahd, the first to be built in Spain in five centuries, symbolised a revival of Arab influence on the Costa Del Sol, whose plush Marbella resort has become a favourite playground for wealthy Gulf Arabs.

King Fahd and his brothers

have built marble palaces in Marbella facing Africa, where the Moorish conquerors came from.

The region of Andalusia still has such relics of Islamic civilisation as the Alhambra, a fine example of old Moorish architecture, or the Great Mosque in Cordoba, now a cathedral.

Arab influence can also be found in Flamenco singing and the horseshoe arch and enclosed patios of Andalusian buildings.

But modern Spain has not had the influx of migrant workers from Islamic countries experienced by some of its West European neighbours.

Spain's Muslim population is estimated at 200,000, mostly in its North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, compared with three million in France.

Israelis and Arabs meet in Madrid with differing agendas

MADRID (R) — Israel and its Arab foes meet across the Middle East peace conference table with widely differing agendas. Following is a list of the objectives of the delegations.

Israels:

The last to agree to attend the peace talks, Israel:

— Wants the peace conference to be a brief ceremonial meeting leading to the one-on-one talks it has always wanted with the Arabs.

— Hopes ultimately to sign peace treaties with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, its immediate neighbours, recognising its right to exist.

— Opposes the creation of a Palestinian state or the return of Palestinian refugees.

— Opposes U.S. and U.N. demands Israel ultimately cede land it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

— Says it wants to grant Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip interim self-rule as envisaged in the 1978 Camp David peace accords Israel signed with Egypt but adds that the status of Arab East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel after the war, is not negotiable.

— Suggests Israel and Arabs will have to negotiate an unspecified permanent solution on the future of the occupied lands.

— Hopes to conclude regional agreements in planned multilateral talks with Arab states on such issues as arms control and water.

Palestinians:

Nearly four years into their uprising of stones and strikes, Palestinians:

agrees to withdraw from Arab lands.

Jordanians:

Attending in a joint delegation with the Palestinians, Jordan:

— Will use the conference to demand an Israeli pullout from the occupied territories including East Jerusalem. The Kingdom has the largest concentration of Palestinians outside of territories. Most fled after the 1948 and 1967 wars.

— Wants a halt to Israeli settlements in the territories.

— Seeks progress on an Israeli withdrawal to help tackle one of its main concerns — water. The Kingdom has a perpetual water shortage and needs agreement with Israel on joint projects and on supplies shared by East and West Bank.

Lebanese:

Seeking to extend government control over all its territory, Lebanon:

— Wants an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south where about 1,000 Israeli troops and an allied militia hold a 15-kilometre deep "security zone" set up in 1985.

— Demands that the Israeli withdrawal is treated separately from all other Arab-Israeli problems to prevent it becoming bogged down until everything is solved.

— Says Lebanese army will take control of the south once Israeli troops leave and will stop guerrilla attacks against Israel.

— Rules out multilateral talks on secondary issues until Israel yields on the main question of withdrawing from occupied land.

No precedents to guide Mideast peace negotiators

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

MADRID — Will they shake hands or won't they?

Odds are they won't. But that is only one of many uncertainties in this week's unique attempt to end four decades of Middle East bloodshed at a superpower-sponsored conference in Madrid.

There is no precedent to guide the protagonists to this party, and given the depth of mistrust and loathing in the Arab-Israeli conflict, procedure could be almost as hard to agree on as substance.

The only previous international conference on Arab-Israeli peace was still-born in Geneva in December 1973. Syria did not show up, Egypt and Jordan refused to sit at the same table as Israel. The talks adjourned after a ceremonial opening.

"Mindful of history in his dogged quest to drag Israel and its neighbours to the negotiating table," says Baker. "Even the shape of the table is still unknown."

Photographers allowed to enter the chilly, marble-columned salon in the neo-classical Palacio Real where the talks will be held found it empty on Monday.

U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the sponsors, and Syrian Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, the host, will deliver opening addresses on Wednesday.

Then the heads of delegations are due to speak. Mr. Baker said the United States will lay down the order of speakers, time limits and procedure when the meeting starts and he expects all parties to abide by the rules.

But jousting is already under way. Israel demands that the Jordanians and Palestinians, who form a joint delegation, be restricted to a single speech-time.

And it threatens to walk out if the Palestinians declare their alliance.

In this age of megaphone diplomacy, the conference will be televised live.

It is a far cry from the seclusion in which Egypt and Israel negotiated their 1979 peace treaty in the log cabins of the U.S. President Jimmy Carter's Camp David retreat.

There will be no anthems, flags or country names, to avoid Israel taking umbrage at the word "Palestine." Even the shape of the table is still unknown.

Asked this month whether he would shake the hand of his Israeli counterpart, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said: "I will tell you frankly, no. Simply because this very hand... that you would like me to shake is very guilty. It's a hand which occupies our lands, ignores the Palestinian national rights and for the last decades we have been suffering from this constant occupation and the Palestinians in the occupied territories have been suffering from constant repression."

Mr. Baker, sitting beside Mr. Shara, said diplomatically: "The handshake come later in the process."

But will Mr. Shara extend his hand for shaking?

His spokesman, Ebud Gol, squeezed a propaganda point from the answer: "We always offer our hand for peace."

Middle East, cauldron of conflict for four decades

MADRID (R) — The Middle East has been a cauldron of conflict since the birth of Israel in 1948.

It has taken 43 years, nearly two decades of U.S. shuttle diplomacy, five wars involving the Jewish state and a sixth between Iraq and a Western-led alliance to bring Arabs and Israelis to the Madrid peace conference.

Here is a chronology of key events:

1897 — The first world Zionist Congress, convened in Basle by Theodor Herzl, sets the aim of creating a home in Palestine for Jews.

1917 — British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour, in Balfour Declaration, tells Zionist leader Lord Rothschild that Britain will help establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Five years later the League of Nations gives Britain a mandate over Palestine, recognising the aims of the Zionist movement.

1922-1947 — Hundreds of thousands of Jews, many of them fugitives from Nazi persecution, settle in Palestine, stoking Arab fears that the intention is to drive Arabs out.

1947 — United Nations recommends the partition of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state.

May 1948 — With the withdrawal of British troops, Jewish settlers proclaim the independent state of Israel. War breaks out with Arab neighbours, Israel annexes large tracts of proposed Arab state. Only the West Bank (under Jordanian administration), and the Gaza Strip (under Egyptian administration) remain in Arab hands.

1956 — Egypt's President Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalises Suez Canal. Israel attacks Sinai Peninsula on Oct. 29, pushes

towards Canal. Anglo-French troops invade Egypt, withdraw under U.S. pressure.

1964 — Arab states create the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as nationalist movement. Yasser Arafat's movement Fatah carries out its first operation against Israel the following year.

June 1967 — Israel attacks Egypt, Syria and Jordan in what it says is a pre-emptive strike. In a six-day war, Israel captures Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt, Golan Heights from Syria, and West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan.

Nov. 1967 — U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 242, calling for Israeli withdrawal, recognition of all states in the area and a just settlement of refugee problem.

1969 — Fatah, its supporters boosted by guerrilla attacks on Israel, takes control of PLO and Mr. Arafat becomes PLO chairman, a post he still holds.

1970 — Increasing strength of guerrilla groups in Jordan and succession of plane hijackings designed to publicise the Palestinian cause lead to conflict with the Jordanian army. Army wins, guerrillas take refuge in Lebanon.

Oct. 6, 1973 — Egypt and Syria attack Israeli forces in Sinai and Golan Heights on the Jewish fast of Yom Kippur with intention of regaining occupied territory. The war is inconclusive.

Oct. 22, 1973 — U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 338 calling for a ceasefire, implementation of Resolution 242 and immediate negotiations "under appropriate auspices" to establish a just and lasting Middle East peace.

Nov. 1982 — Arab summit in Fez gives implicit recognition of Israel by demanding withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967.

1974 — Arab states recognise PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Profiles of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation participating at the Madrid peace conference:

The Jordanian delegates:

Name and Age: Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, 59
Head of the joint delegation and member of the Jordanian delegation.

Born: Salt, Jordan
Current post: Minister of Foreign Affairs.
Education: Ph.D., Political Science, Syracuse University, U.S.
Former dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce, University of Jordan; former director, University of Jordan Centre for Strategic Studies; former minister of national economy.

Name and Age: Dr. Abdul Salam Aqallah Majali, 66
Born: Karak, Jordan
Current Post: Advisor, Jordan University for Women.
Education: M.D., Medical College, Syrian University, Damascus, Syria. Former President, University of Jordao; former Minister of Health; former Minister of Education; former Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs.

Name and Age: Mr. Anwar Al Khatib, 74
Born: Hebron, West Bank
Current Post: Retired lawyer.
Education: Licence de Droit, Law School of Jerusalem.
Former mayor of Jerusalem; former president, Higher Islamic Council; three Minister of National Economy.

Name and Age: Mr. Awad Khalidi, 59
Born: Al Khaldyeh, Jordan
Current Post: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to the Republic of France.
Education: Graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies, England. Former Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to Greece.

Name and Age: Mr. Talal Hassan, 52
Born: Irbid, Jordan
Current Post: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium.
Education: Licence de Droit.

Damascus University, Syria.
Former Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia.

Name and Age: Dr. Mohammad A. Al Adwan, 48
Born: South Shuneh, Jordan
Current Post: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to the USSR, and non-resident ambassador to Poland and Finland.

Education: Ph.D., Political Science, Syracuse University, U.S.
Former dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce, University of Jordan; former director, University of Jordan Centre for Strategic Studies; former minister of national economy.

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Education: Ph.D., Political Science, Syracuse University, U.S.
Former dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce, University of Jordan; former director, University of Jordan Centre for Strategic Studies; former minister of national economy.

Name and Age: Dr. Awn Khawneeh, 41
Born: Amman, Jordan
Current Post: Appointed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to the Court of St. James.

Education: M.A., Philosophy, California State University at San Francisco, U.S.
Former press secretary to His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal.

Name and Age: Major-General Abdal Hafiz Marci, 55
Born: Madaba, Jordan
Current Post: Deputy Chief of Staff, for Intelligence, Jordan Armed Forces.

Education: M.Sc., Military Science, Royal College of Defence Studies, England; graduate of the Royal Military Academy, Jordan.

In 1962 awarded the Medal of Gallantry, Jordan's highest decoration for heroism in battle.

Name and Age: Professor Walid Khalidi, 66
Born: Jerusalem

Current Post: Senior research fellow, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.

Education: Graduate of University of London and Oxford University, England; former lecturer, Oxford University; a founding member of the Institute of Palestine Studies; co-founder of the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan.

Name and Age: Dr. Ghassan Al Jundi, 37
Born: Amman-Jordan

Current Post: Associate professor, Faculty of Law, University of Jordan

Education: Ph.D., Law, University of Social Sciences, Grenoble, France. Former advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Palestinian delegates

Name and Age: Dr. Adnan M. Al Bakti, 50
Born: Mahez, Jordan

Current Post: Vice President for Humanities, University of Jordan Education: Ph.D., Islamic History, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, England

Professor of History, University of Jordan (1978-present).

Name and Age: Dr. Mohammad Bani-Hani, 53
Born: Ibid, Jordan

Current Post: Secretary General, Ministry of Municipalities, Rural Affairs and Environment

Education: Ph.D., Hydraulic Engineering, Belgrade University, Yugoslavia

Former Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority.

Name and Age: Mr. Fouad N. Ayoub, 47
Born: Amman, Jordan

Current Post: Appointed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to the Court of St. James.

Education: M.A., Philosophy, California State University at San Francisco, U.S.

Former press secretary to His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal.

Name and Age: Major-General Abdal Hafiz Marci, 55
Born: Madaba, Jordan

Current Post: Deputy Chief of Staff, for Intelligence, Jordan Armed Forces.

Education: M.Sc., Military Science, Royal College of Defence Studies, England; graduate of the Royal Military Academy, Jordan.

In 1962 awarded the Medal of Gallantry, Jordan's highest decoration for heroism in battle.

Name and Age: Dr. Musa Breizat, 41
Born: Madaba, Jordan

Current Post: Political Advisor to the Royal Hashemite Court

Education: Ph.D., Political Science, New York University, U.S.

Former officer at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Name and Age: Dr. Elias Freij, 71
Born: Bethlehem, West Bank

Current Post: Mayor of Bethlehem (since 1972)

Education: Graduate of Zion High School, Jerusalem.

Former Chairman, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce.

Name and Age: Professor Nabil Qassis, 44
Born: Ramallah, West Bank.

Name and Age: Dr. Haidar

Abdul Al Shafi, 72
Head of the Palestinian delegation

Born: Gaza

Current Post: Medical doctor and president, Palestine Red Crescent

Education: M.D., American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Former speaker of the Palestinian Parliament while Gaza was under Egyptian rule (1949-1967).

Expelled from Gaza by the Israeli occupation authorities for political activities.

Name and Age: Dr. Zakaria Agha, 49
Born: Gaza

Current Post: Medical doctor, Head of Internal Medicine, Ahli Hospital, Gaza

Education: M.D., Internal Medicine, University of Cairo, Egypt

President, Gaza Medical Association

Prohibited, by the Israeli occupation authorities, from travelling out of the occupied territories for nine years.

Name and Age: Dr. Saeb Erakat, 36
Born: Abu Dis, Jerusalem

Current Post: Professor of Political Science, Al Najah University, West Bank

Education: Ph.D., International Relations, Bradford University, England. Editorial writer for the Palestinian Arabic daily newspaper Al Quds.

Name and Age: Dr. Samir Abdullah, 41
Born: Abu Qasab, Ramallah, West Bank

Current Post: Lecturer, Economics, Al Najah University, West Bank

Education: Ph.D., Economics, University of Prague, Czechoslovakia. Secretary of the Arab Thought Forum, Jerusalem.

Name and Age: Mr. Sameh Kanan, 38
Born: Nablus, West Bank

Current Post: Businessman, Nablus Chamber of Commerce, West Bank

Education: Graduate of Sabriyyeh High School, Nablus, West Bank. Imprisoned by the Israeli occupation authorities for 12 years for political activities.

Name and Age: Mr. Sami Kilani, 42
Born: Yabud-Jenin, West Bank.

Name and Age: Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, 45
Born: Nablus, West Bank

Current Post: Professor, English Literature, University of Bir Zeit, West Bank.

Education: Ph.D., English Literature, University of Virginia.

Current Post: Professor of Physics, Bir Zeit University, West Bank

Education: M.Sc., Science Education, Al Najah University, West Bank

A renowned poet and writer

Member, Palestinian Writers Union and Palestinian Teachers Union.

Name and Age: Professor Ghasan Al Khatib, 56
Born: Nablus, West Bank

Current Post: Professor of Economics, Bir Zeit University, West Bank

Education: M.A., Economic Development, University of Manchester, England.

Owner of the Jerusalem-based Press Communications Centre.

Imprisoned by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1979 for one month, for political activities.

Name and Age: Dr. Awn Khawneeh, 41
Born: Amman, Jordan

Current Post: Legal advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

Education: M.A./L.B. International Law, Cambridge University, England.

Member, United Nations International Law Committee; member, United Nations Subcommittee for the Protection of Minorities and the Prevention of Discrimination.

Name and Age: Dr. Musa Breizat, 41
Born: Madaba, Jordan

Current Post: Political Advisor to the Royal Hashemite Court

Education: Ph.D., Political Science, New York University, U.S.

Former officer at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Name and Age: Dr. Elias Freij, 71
Born: Bethlehem, West Bank

Current Post: Mayor of Bethlehem (since 1972)

Education: Graduate of Zion High School, Jerusalem.

Former Chairman, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce.

Name and Age: Professor Nabil Qassis, 44
Born: Ramallah, West Bank.

Name and Age: Dr. Haidar

Current Post: Lecturer, Al Najah University, West Bank

Education: M.Sc., Science Education, Al Najah University, West Bank

A renowned poet and writer

Member, Palestinian Writers Union and Palestinian Teachers Union.

Name and Age: Ms. Zuhaira Kamal, 46
Born: Hebron, West Bank

Current Post: Civil engineer

Education: B.Sc., Civil Engineering, University of Cairo, Egypt

Former teacher, UNRWA Teachers College, Ramallah, West Bank.

Prohibited, by the Israeli occupation authorities, from travelling out of the occupied territories for four years.

Name and Age: Dr. Nabil Erakat, 36
Born: Hebron, West Bank

Current Post: Dentist & president of the Hebron University Board of Trustees.

Education: D.D.S., University of London, England.

Name and Age: Dr. Mahmoud Aker, 47
Born: Nablus, West Bank

Current Post: Surgeon

Education: M.D., Royal College of Surgeons, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Member, Board of Trustees, Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre.

The Palestinian Guidance Committee

Name and Age: Mr. Faisal Husseini, 50
Head of Palestinian Guidance Committee

Current Post: President, Arab Studies Society, Jerusalem

Education: Post graduate studies, History Department, University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Member, Palestinian delegation

that held preparatory talks (re: the Middle East peace conference) with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Name and Age: Dr. Rashid Khader, 43
Born: Abu Dis, Jerusalem

Current Post: Associate professor, Modern Middle East History and Director, Centres for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, U.S.

Education: Ph.D., Political Science

U.S. Member, Palestinian delegation that held preparatory talks (re: the Middle East peace conference) with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Name and Age: Ms. Zuhaira Kamal, 46
Born: Hebron, West Bank

Current Post: President of the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committees.

Education: B.Sc., Physics, Ain Shams University, Cairo.

Former teacher, UNRWA Teachers College, Ramallah, West Bank.

Prohibited, by the Israeli occupation authorities, from travelling out of the occupied territories for four years.

Name and Age: Dr. Rashid Khader, 43
Born: Abu Dis, Jerusalem

Current Post: Associate professor, Modern Middle East History and Director, Centres for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, U.S.

Education: Ph.D., Political Science

U.K. Oxford University, England. Former faculty member, American University of Beirut, Lebanon; former faculty member, Columbia University, New York and George Town University, Washington D.C.

Name and Age: Mr. Kameel Mansour, 50
Current Post: Researcher at the Institute for Palestine Studies, Beirut, Lebanon.

Name and Age: Dr. Sari Nuseibeh, 42
Current Post: Professor of Philosophy at the University of Bir Zeit, West Bank.

Education: Ph.D., Islamic Philosophy, Harvard University

Impersonated by the Israeli occupation authorities for six months for political activities.

Name and Age: Mr. Anis Al Qassem, 60
Current Post: Palestinian lawyer residing in London.

PEACE CONFERENCE



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Connors comes back to where comeback began

PARIS (Agencies) — Jimmy Connors, tennis' senior citizen, is reveling in his status as a crowd favorite.

Connors returned Monday to the city where he began his improbable comeback began at the French Open in June. He didn't let his followers down, beating Haiti's Ronald Agenor 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 in the first round of the Paris Open.

"Not even the presence of an old crowd favorite, Yannick Noah — playing a doubles match with other Frenchman, Henri Leconte — could upstage Connors."

"We were lucky not to lose. With Connors coming after I don't want to imagine how the crowd would be like," Noah said. "It puts more pressure also because you understand what the people shout out to you."

John McEnroe was expected to play Christian Bergstrom and Pete Sampras, seeded sixth, facing Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union in a second-round match.

One thing is for sure: None of them will draw the same fan response as Connors, who at age 39 has the crowd on his side wherever he goes.

"It's been like that for the whole summer since Roland Garros," Connors said. "Until now it's unbelievable. It's the kind of summer you don't buy. So you live it until the end."

Connors loves it, the crowd loves him, and Agenor was the odd man out. For the second time in Paris this year Agenor lost to Connors. The last time, Connors needed five sets and three hours. This time, it took three sets and just over two hours.

The crowd was with Connors all the way.

"I love it when the public gets involved," he said. "The crowd is like the one in New York — here they yell, they shout, they scream."

Connors faces French Open champion Jim Courier in the second round. Courier ended Connors' dreams of a U.S. Open semifinal by routing him in the semifinals.

"He played very well against me in the U.S. Open," Connors said. "Every time is another time,



Jimmy Connors

so maybe I can do different here."

Connors knows he can still do well and the French crowd is ready to carry him as far as possible.

"That's why I'm here. I'm working at it," said Connors.

During his match against Agenor, Connors was teasing the crowd or his friends such as Ilie Nastase.

Stich's injury followed Monday's doubles when he and fellow-German Udo Riglewski lost in straight sets to Americans Charles Beckman and David Wheaton in the first round.

Gascoigne injury again delays court case

NEWCASTLE, England (R) — British soccer star Paul Gascoigne failed to appear in court to face assault charges Monday for a second time because of a knee injury.

The 24-year-old Tottenham and England midfielder, better known as "gazza," originally hurt his knee in this year's FA Cup final. He hurt it again last month apparently in a scuffle at a night-club in his home town, Newcastle.

His injury has put a question mark over his transfer, worth

\$8.8 million, to Lazio of Italy. But he has until next May, when he faces a medical test, to prove his fitness.

In London, Gascoigne turned up at Tottenham's training ground Monday morning to restart his rehabilitation programme.

Tottenham Manager Peter Shreeves said: "Our club surgeon John Browett looked at the X-rays of Paul's knee at the weekend and said he could come into training. He is here to start his rehabilitation process."

Gascoigne's knee has been wired up but Shreeves said: "As far as the doctors can tell us he is bang on course for the end of May, when he has the fitness test which will decide his move right."

Sunday's race is the final leg of the Formula One season. Ayrton Senna of Brazil already has clinched the World drivers' Championship.

The Ferrari team is preparing for the race uncertain whether three-time world champion Alain Prost will drive.

Prost has said he is disillusioned with both Ferrari and Formula One.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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IT'S A TOPSY-TURVY WORLD

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 9 7 5
♥ A K
♦ 6 7 4 2
♦ K Q J 10

WEST
♦ 8 4 3
♥ 9 5 3 2
♦ J 9 8 5 3
♦ 2

EAST
♦ A 6
♥ Q 9 8 4
♦ Q 10
♦ A 9 8 5 3

SOUTH
♦ K Q J 10 2
♥ Q 10 7
♦ A K
♦ 7 6 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♦

In every form of bridge, the defenders labor at a distinct disadvantage. Whereas declarer can see the full assets of his side, each defender has only half his side's cards in view. Thus the defenders must find means of describing their respective holdings by the way they play their cards. To appreciate the problem, cover the West and South hands and decide how you would defend with the East cards.

Let's suppose North-South arrive

at a fairly normal contract of four spades. The opening salvo by your partner, West, is the deuce of clubs. You win the ace and return the suit which partner ruffs with the four and then exits with the nine of diamonds to the queen and ace. Declarer wins, crosses to the king of hearts and leads a low trump. You grab the ace as partner follows with the three. Do you try to give partner another ruff, or do you hope partner holds the king of diamonds?

There are two reasons why you should persevere with clubs. First, if partner held the king of diamonds, he would have led a low card in that suit, not the nine. Secondly, by echoing in trumps (ruffing with the four then following suit with a lower card), partner is signalling an odd number of cards in trumps, so you know another club will get ruffed.

Note that this method of indicating length in the trump suit is just the opposite of the way you signal length in a plain suit. There you echo with an even number of cards and play up-the-line with an odd number.

There's a sound reason why signaling trump length is inverted. When you hold a doubleton trump, you may not be able to spare the higher card to indicate your trump holding to partner.

Let's suppose North-South arrive

Chinese wins women's world chess title, beats Soviet rival

MANILA (R) — Chinese challenger Xie Jun Tuesday ended six decades of Soviet dominance over women's chess by defeating Soviet world titleholder Maya Chiburdanidze in a 16-game series for the crown in the Philip-

pines as she was surrounded by her ecstatic supporters.

The rise of China's women chess players, who first broke into the candidates matches for the world title in 1983, came from training with their world-rated men's players, chess analysts at the match said.

"They're very sharp, they don't give you any quarter. Xie's game was an off-shoot of training with their male players," said Philippine international master Gimre Fontanilla.

Xie is the first Asian to win a world chess title, breaking a 64-year hold by Soviet women over the crown. She is the third Chinese player to qualify for the candidates matches, which determines the challenger for the crown held by Chiburdanidze.

"I was confident of getting a good game for the precious draw," said Xie, who learned to play chess in a Peking school at the age of 10. She raised both hands in triumph after the game

was over the game.

The 20-year-old sports student from Peking battled back from a one game deficit early in the match to defeat the champion from the Soviet Republic of Georgia.

Xie, who had taken the lead with a win in the third match, suffered back-to-back losses in the fourth and fifth game before managing to equalise with a victory in game eight.

She then broke through with victories in the 11th and 13th games to seize a decisive lead in the contest.

Chiburdanidze, 31, has defended the title she won from fellow Soviet Nona Gaprindashvili four times.

At least nine of the games were

played under the classical Ruy Lopez opening as both players

decided to stick it out with a king's pawn opening.

Chiburdanidze had to win the last two matches to retain the title with an 8-8 tie. One win counted for a point and a draw for half a point.

Kasparov leads at Tilburg tournament

TILBURG, Netherlands (AP) — World champion Gary Kasparov of the Soviet Union settled for a quick draw against Swiss grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi Monday but easily held the overall lead in the 15th annual Interpolis Chess Tournament.

Playing black from the exchange variation of the king's Indian, the world champion had to defend a slightly inferior position after Korchnoi had swapped queens on his eighth move and introduced an interesting theoretical novelty four moves later.

However, the 60-year-old Swiss veteran seemed at a loss what to do with the advantage he had gained over his renowned

opponent in the ninth-round match. He launched a half-hearted attempt at an attack but his efforts were effectively blocked.

Kasparov exchanged some pieces to even out and barely saw off his offer of a draw accepted after 27 moves and barely 3½ hours of play.

Kasparov's performance in Monday's action boosted his score to seven points for an unbeaten record of five victories and four draws in the nine rounds played so far in the \$55,000 double round-robin chess spectacular.

Following the world champion at one and a half points was India's Viswanathan Anand who adjourned his game against Holland's Jan Timman after 70 moves with black from a Petroff defence from a blunder by Evgeny Bareev of the Soviet Union to score a point in 35 moves from a king's Indian attack with white.

Goal famine prompts Italian rethink on points system

ROME (R) — The low scoring rate in this season's Italian soccer championship has prompted league President Luciano Nizzola to suggest following England and introduce three points for a win instead of two.

Commenting on Italian radio after only eight goals were scored in nine first division games Sunday, Nizzola said they were looking at "all possible remedies."

"Perhaps the best solution would be to introduce the English system which rewards a win with three points," he said.

"I don't agree, however, that all Sunday's games were uninteresting. The 0-0 draw in the Genoa derby (Genoa V Sampdoria) might easily have ended 2-2."

Football Federation President Antonino Matarrese also expressed concern, without, however, recommending the English system: "Our championship is followed and enjoyed all over the world but we shouldn't fool ourselves into believing that we have the best soccer by divine right."

Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven try to take the lead from Feyenoord Rotterdam Wednesday when they entertain MVV Maastricht.

Coach Bobby Robson still has to do without striker Romario, who is recovering from a bruised ankle. Midfielder Gerald Vanenburg and defender Eric Gerets also remain doubtful.

Ajax Amsterdam, who have lost their last two league games, hope to recover form against Willem II Tilburg.

John Van 't Schip is expected to be on the bench again after indicating he does not want to play on the right wing, preferring a place in midfield as playmaker.

Both men will be hoping to underline the point Wednesday when Juventus travel to Atalanta and Torino are at home to Lazio in the first leg of the Italian Cup third round.

Football Federatiun President Antonino Matarrese also expressed concern, without, however, recommending the English system: "Our championship is followed and enjoyed all over the world but we shouldn't fool ourselves into believing that we have the best soccer by divine right."

Andrew Tucker suffered concussion and back injuries. George Duffield and Colin Munday were treated for back injuries.

3 jockeys hurt after pile-up

LONDON (R) — Three jockeys were taken to hospital after a pile-up in fog during a race at Bath Monday. Stewards abandoned the final race.

The pile-up was caused by one of the front runners, Sandford Springs, falling. He brought

down three other horses, including the favourite Shentil.

Sandford Springs' rider Andrew Tucker suffered concussion and back injuries. George Duffield and Colin Munday were treated for back injuries.

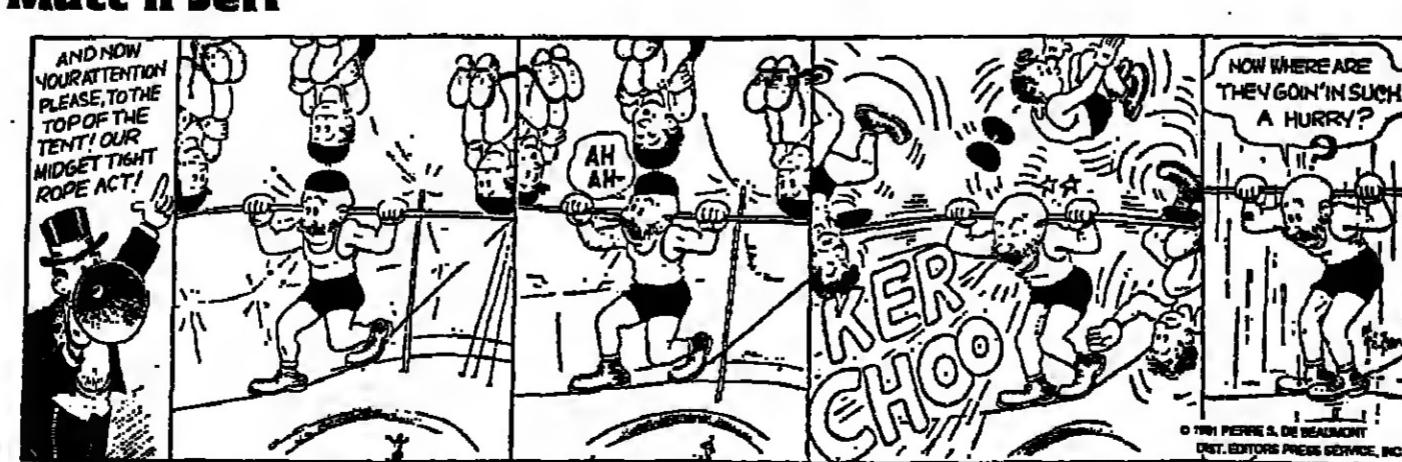
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Not a good day for entertaining, romance or being creative in lines of expression that mean the most to you. Gain the good will of others with honest compliments and consideration.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you want to do is able to help you gain your own special hangup is wise to put in motion now so think out your desires clearly.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There are quite a number of private matters requiring your attention so use that secretive quality with which you are so well endowed to quietly get them settled.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is your time to make sure you join with good friends and loyal allies in the games and the sports that bring you a feeling of accomplishment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is that moment for you to go straight to an official or executive to get him to give you the backing you need in some civic or vocational project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have so many new ideas you don't know which one to put in motion first but so long as you are constructive and forging ahead with character all's well.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have deep and prophetic insights what you can do to make your innermost aims come true with the help of an ally who also means a great deal to you.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLING WORD GAME, by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VENOL

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POTIV

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LOWELY

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GINDAR

Financial Markets		London Times			
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank					
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close			
Date: 29/10/1991	Date: 29/10/1991				
Sterling Pound*	1.6940	1.6975			
Deutsche Mark	1.7179	1.7149			
Swiss Franc	1.5045	1.5065			
French Franc	5.8805	5.8235 **			
Japanese Yen	132.32	131.95			
European Currency Unit	1.1925	1.1938 **			
* USD Per STG ** European Opening at 200 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 29/10/1991					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.37	5.37		
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.56	10.37		
Deutsche Mark	9.72	9.31	9.43		
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.31	8.31		
French Franc	8.90	9.06	9.12		
Japanese Yen	6.37	6.25	6.00		
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.87	9.87		
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals Date: 29/10/1991					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	358.90	6.950	Silver	4.07	.090
* per 100					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 29/10/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900			
Sterling Pound	1.1665	1.1723			
Deutsche Mark	0.4006	0.4026			
Swiss Franc	0.4568	0.4591			
French Franc	0.1175	0.1181			
Japanese Yen*	0.5210	0.5236			
Dutch Guilder	0.3555	0.3573			
Swedish Krona	0.1100	0.1106			
Italian Lira*	0.0536	0.0539			
Belgian Franc	0.01955	0.01965			
* per 100					
Other Currencies Date: 29/10/1991					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahrain Dinar	1.7990	1.8070			
Lebanese Lira*	0.0777	0.0780			
Saudi Riyal	0.1631	0.1840			
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—			
Qatari Riyal	0.1866	0.1875			
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100			
Omani Riyal	1.7600	1.7700			
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1875			
Greek Drachma*	0.3550	0.3560			
Cypriot Pound	1.4450	1.4600			
* per 100					
CAIS Indices for Amman Financial Markets					
Index	27/10/1991	Close	28/10/1991		
All-Share	123.49	124.05			
Banking Sector	104.03	104.74			
Insurance Sector	125.16	124.71			
Industry Sector	153.19	153.57			
Services Sector	130.96	131.70			

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6978/88	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.240/45	Canadian dollar	
	1.713/345	Deutschmarks	
	1.951/525	Dutch guilders	
	1.500/15	Swiss francs	
	35.24/28	Belgian francs	
	5.8450/6500	French francs	
	1281/1282	Italian lire	
	131.90/132.00	Japanese yen	
	6.2410/60	Swedish crowns	
	6.7150/7200	Norwegian crowns	
	6.6400/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	358.60/359.10	U.S. dollars	

MEES says Kuwait faces 'severe management crisis'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Kuwait faces a "severe management crisis" because of its policy reducing the number of foreign workers in the country following the Gulf war, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

"The resulting loss to Kuwait should be seen mainly in terms of skills rather than numbers," MEES said. "Many of those who left were among the most competent and experienced."

Associate editor Andrew Coningham, who prepared the analysis after visiting Kuwait, also noted that the overall cut in population would translate to lower demand in the economy.

"Even taking into account reduced demand for services... the country is facing a severe management crisis," he wrote. He quoted an unidentified "local observer" predicting the Kuwaiti government "may have to soften its line on allowing back foreign workers."

Thousands of Arab and Asian workers fled the oil-rich emirate after Iraq's invasion on Aug. 2, 1990. Those allowed to return have been given short-term work

permits and often are denied residence permits for their families.

Palestinians, seen by the Kuwaitis as Iraqi sympathisers, have been fired from government jobs, and those who fled have not been allowed back.

Many Palestinians did the actual work to keep ministries running through middle-management positions or ran local businesses. Their numbers have dwindled to about 40,000 from some 400,000 before the war.

The cutback in foreign workers fits neatly with a prewar government goal of reducing Kuwait's dependence on foreigners and increasing the demographic weight of its own 600,000 nationals.

Kuwait's prewar population was about 2.1 million. Its post-war aim is a range of 1.2 million to 1.5 million.

MEES noted it would be difficult for the government to reach its goal of having Kuwaitis make up half of the work force.

Before the war, Kuwaitis made up just 14 per cent of the labour force, and nine in ten were em-

ployed by the government. They constituted just 1.2 per cent of the private sector employees, MEES said.

MEES also reported that the longstanding problem of bank debts, accumulated in connection with the 1982 stock market crash, "is expected to reach some sort of conclusion by the end of the year, opening the way for the long-awaited bank mergers."

It said the ministry of finance may set up a special company to purchase the banks' five billion Kuwaiti dinars (\$1.39 billion) in non-performing loans at face value. The move will provide liquidity to the ailing banks and set up a system for debtors to repay the new company over 25 years.

MEES said that under the plan, debtors would be required to repay their entire loan to the special company. Now, some who cannot pay can get write-offs.

"This difference may be one reason why the new proposal is receiving close scrutiny before being officially approved," MEES said.

Soviet republics sign debt accord after last-minute hitch

MOSCOW (AP) — The 12 remaining Soviet republics agreed Monday night to share responsibility for repaying the nation's foreign debt, estimated at more than \$65 billion.

The agreement followed two days of talks with deputy finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations. The G-7 group has made the pact one of the conditions necessary for further Western aid to the Soviet Union.

Ten minutes before the "memorandum of understanding" was signed, a sentence was inserted that said the former Soviet republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia also bore some responsibility for the debt.

No representative of the Baltic states signed the document, but leading Soviet economist Grigory Yavlinsky said afterward in an interview with the Associated Press: "There is no doubt the Baltics will sign."

The participation of the Baltics appeared to be a condition that was demanded by the Ukraine.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin angrily stormed out of the closed meeting before the parties signed the memorandum, but then returned and signed it conditionally, before the language on the Baltics was added.

The rest of the republics signed after a clause on the Baltics was inserted.

"There was an oversight," said David Dodge, assistant deputy

finance minister of Canada. "We went all day and we were scrambling at the end and it was very unfortunate, because clearly the prime minister of the Ukraine had made a great contribution during the course of the meeting."

"We would very much have liked to have had him around at the completion," Mr. Dodge said.

The signatories declared themselves jointly liable for the debt and made the Soviet foreign economic bank, or its legal successor, full authority to serve as the debt manager, according to the agreement.

They also promised to "pursue policies designed to achieve rapid economic adjustment that promotes their debt servicing capacities, and to cooperate with their foreign creditors..."

The signatories agreed to "service the debt" keeping in mind also to hold negotiations and conclude an agreement about participation in paying off debt on a solidarity basis with Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Monday night's pivotal session at the Oktyabrskaya Hotel opened talks to the Kremlin between the G-7 officials and Soviet representatives, including Ivan Silayev, head of the interim government. The talks had been proposed by the industrial nations at this month's annual meeting in Thailand of the International Monetary Fund and the

World Bank.

"There is concern about the creditworthiness of the former USSR in the credit markets, in large part because of the worry about what would happen under whatever new arrangements they might have in this country," Mr. Dodge said of the Moscow negotiations.

"I think they've achieved a lot and it's important for the future in terms of their ability to borrow in the market."

At Sunday's meeting, Mr. Fokin proposed establishing a central bank authorized by the republics to make settlements with their common creditors. He said each republic would pay its share of the foreign debt with payments from a special hard currency account in the bank, which would consist of money received from exports and other funds.

Richard Jolly, assistant director-general of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), said Monday there was a widening gap between rhetoric and action on the part of creditor countries dealing with African debt.

He said that positive steps had been taken by some creditor nations but indebtedness of African countries still "hangs like a dark cloud over the continent, obscuring prospects for the renewal of growth."

The secretary-general made his comments at a day-long celebration of African Day devoted to debt relief, initiated by Leon Sullivan, who originated the rules for ending debt among employees of American firms in South Africa.

Hundreds of his supporters flooded into the United Nations and scores more listened to the speeches on loudspeakers at a church across the street from the UN complex.

In addition to Mr. Sullivan's appearance, the day was marked by speeches from a wide array of international and American political figures, including New York Mayor David Dinkins, Philadelphia Mayor Wilson Goode and General Motors Chairman Robert Stempel.

In his address, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said it was "disheartening to see how, in spite of the widespread recognition of the gravity of the situation... the gap between rhetoric and action remains largely unbridged."

He said there was no single, easy way out "but it is surely without careful consideration," he said, "this could have unintended consequences when loans are sought to the future."

Although relatively little of Africa's debt is owed to the United States, he said Washington was active in many international lending institutions that urged economic reform and less centralized economies.

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FOR RENT

The U.S. leverage over Israel — money

Although Washington now is also questioning the Jewish state's credit worthiness, Israel is counting on approval for the loan guarantees — \$2 billion a year for five years — when it comes up for consideration in January.

The budget Mr. Modai presented assumes Israel will have \$2 billion in foreign loans to cover half the projected 1992 deficit. The budget for 1992 is five per cent higher than the previous year.

Failure to get U.S. guarantees would force Israel to pay higher interest rates on an international market already crowded by demands from many other countries.

Over Israeli protests, Washington last month delayed consideration of their request until January. That U.S. chin hanging over Israel's head pressured Mr. Shamir to join the peace talks and will pressure him to stay.

"As the prime minister prepares himself for this week's Madrid conference, he may ponder how much stronger Israel's position would have been had its economic house been in order," the right-wing Jerusalem Post newspaper said in an editorial.

Israel's economy displays figures that would alarm most Western countries.

Unemployment has moved above 10 per cent and even with extra spending intended to create jobs, the finance ministry predicted unemployment of 14 per cent in two years.

Inflation, hovering close to 20 per cent a year since the U.S. rescue of the Israeli economy in the mid-1980s, has been rising in

IATA head says airlines are bleeding to death

(IATA) said the industry faced losses of \$3.7 billion on international services alone in 1991 after recording total losses of \$5.1 billion.

"I am still not certain that everyone realises just how bad things are," he told delegates to the annual meeting of the 264-member group in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

U.N. chief urges enforcement of Yugoslav arms embargo

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Secretary-General urged the Security Council Monday to follow up its arms embargo against Yugoslavia and offered U.N. aid for displaced persons, expected to reach 400,000 soon.

In an analysis of the Yugoslav economy, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also said the entire financial life of the country "is at risk of disintegration."

"The killing must stop," the U.N. chief said in his first report on the Yugoslav crisis following a trip to the country by his special envoy, former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Mr. Vance, he said, reported that the embargo on weapons and military equipment imposed by the Security Council on Sept. 25 was being violated.

"Given the gravity of this apparent violation of the decision of the council, its members will no doubt wish to respond appropriately," he said.

France has been considering

asking the 15-member council to impose an oil embargo against the warring parties in Yugoslavia but no action has been taken yet.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he asked the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, to examine "on an urgent basis how her office may act" in Yugoslavia.

He estimated about 300,000 people had been displaced within Yugoslavia and another 100,000 were expected to follow suit by the end of the year.

UNHCR is already active in aiding 35,000 Yugoslav refugees in Hungary. Italy has granted temporary asylum to 5,000 Yugoslavs and Austria has reported 6,000 to 8,000 refugees.

Britain's Lord Carrington, the European Community's mediator on Yugoslavia, Monday told senior diplomats he was pessimistic about prospects for a truce in the country's civil war.

Carrington, who had conferred with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, later briefed the five permanent mem-

bers of the Security Council, diplomats said.

"He was pretty discouraging, quite pessimistic," said one envoy at the talks, which reviewed an EC communique threatening Serbia with economic and diplomatic sanctions if it did not agree to EC peace proposals by Tuesday.

Only Serbia has so far rejected an EC plan for the orderly break-up of the Yugoslav Federation.

Lord Carrington was said to have told Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union and China that support from the Security Council would be useful. He also said he planned to talk to the Yugoslav parties again on Nov. 7.

Meanwhile the Yugoslav army Tuesday blasted the Croatian town of Vinkovci with artillery and sporadic fighting was reported elsewhere in the breakaway republic.

Croatian radio said a heavy artillery barrage at dawn pounded Vinkovci, where the Serb-led army is trying to drive out Croatian militia forces.

In the port city of Dubrovnik, under siege by the army for 29 days, evasions of women and children continued overnight. A ship bringing relief supplies was being inspected by the army before being let through a naval blockade.

Some 50,000 men, women and children are trapped in the medieval Croatian port, deemed a world heritage site by the United Nations, with the army camped a kilometre from the walls.

Despite a 10-day ceasefire, fighting has raged around Vinkovci and the nearby Danube town of Vukovar for the past week.

Fighting was also reported around Vukovar Tuesday, where some 15,000 Croats have been held out against an army siege for two months.

The Vukovar hospital is said to be overflowing with wounded but international relief convoys have been unable to reach the town because of the fighting.

N. Korea continues to refuse nuclear inspections

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Communist North Korea has not only refused again to open its secretive nuclear facilities to international inspection, but it has set more conditions for doing so.

Talks will be held in Washington this week to discuss what can be done to pressure North Korea to change its mind.

This received recalibration by the North Koreans privately disturbs Western officials, who have expressed concern that the North may not only be nearing the potential to produce nuclear arms but seems determined to use the issue as a political weapon.

The nuclear debate is one of the most sensitive issues in North Asia. Inability to resolve it threatens to undermine efforts for lasting peace and stability in the region.

The Foreign Ministry said last weekend that high-level talks in Washington on Oct. 30 would focus on U.S. troop reductions and on U.S. President George Bush's plan to withdraw all sea and land-based nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Military sources said Monday that South Korea will start massive military exercises with the United States this week, and a Seoul newspaper said U.S. troops might use such exercises to reinforce nuclear warheads.

The announced withdrawal of U.S. weapons was initially seen as a positive step in encouraging North Korea to allow inspections. The North has consistently demanded the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons as a condition for inspections.

U.N. details 'quick fix' measures for Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — A United Nations agency plans to start patching up Cambodia's shattered rail and road network to help repatriate the 350,000 refugees in camps in Thailand, a senior Phnom Penh-based official said.

The Thai-Cambodian border and another between Phnom Penh and the southwest port of Kompong Som. The track between Sisophon and Poipet has been mostly destroyed.

The country's ancient passenger and goods trains include several steam locomotives built in the 1920s.

Rains run at an average speed of 25 kph (15 mph) because of severely degraded track and bridges, a frequent target of guerrilla attacks.

In Bangkok, the U.N. announced that a mission of the organization's agencies would leave for Cambodia Thursday for a two-week trip to assess the country's needs.

It will look at the immediate relief problems in food, housing, water, sanitation, health and infrastructure.

It is the first such visit since the peace accord was signed and involves the world food programme, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the U.N. Children's Fund and other agencies.

After it reports back the U.N. will appeal to the world community for funds.

No one knows how much the new U.N. Cambodia operation will cost — but everybody is sure it will be the most expensive in U.N. history.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon has prepared Congress for a bill of more than a billion dollars, of which the United States would pay about 30 per cent. It is hoped Japan will pay at least 25 per cent of the costs and Australia will contribute about 1,000 troops.

Diplomats believe Mr. Solomon, in his recent testimony to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, gave the highest possible estimate, meaning that earlier ballpark figures of \$2 to \$5 billion have been discounted.

Column 10

Mrs. Marcos offers shoes collection for \$10,000 a pair

MANILA (R) — Imelda Marcos is offering to auction off her shoe collection for \$10,000 a pair to raise money for victims of the Mount Pinatubo volcanic eruption in the Philippines. The exiled former Philippine first lady said in a radio interview Tuesday the government had promised to return her collection of 1,200 designer shoes that she left behind when she was ousted in 1986. "I heard the shoes ... will be returned to me. Perhaps it would be good if we auction them so we can have some funds, some money and help the Pinatubo victims," she said.

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China cracks down on prostitution

PEKING (AP) — Authorities are cracking down on prostitution in southern China before the Women's World Soccer Championships are held there next month, official media said Monday. The tournament will be held on Nov. 16-30 in Canton and four nearby cities. China is intent on making a good impression as host of the international competition in an effort to bolster its bid for the summer Olympics in 2000. The official China Daily newspaper said 1,774 prostitutes have been arrested in the crackdown in the southern province of Guangdong. It said police have closed 472 hotels, recreation centres, barbershops, beauty shops and bars that were centres for prostitution. The Communist government nearly succeeded in eliminating prostitution after taking power in 1949, but the practice has returned in recent years with increased exposure to the outside world and greater social mobility.

Swatch watch fetches record \$41,700

LUCERNE, Switzerland (R) — A record price of \$62,000 Swiss francs (\$41,700) was recorded for a Swatch fashion watch at an auction in Lucerne at the weekend, organisers said. The watch was one of a limited series of 120 brightly-coloured "Kiki Picasso" models designed by French artist Christian Chapiro in 1985 with his signature on the strap. It said police have closed 472 hotels, recreation centres, barbershops, beauty shops and bars that were centres for prostitution. The Communist government nearly succeeded in eliminating prostitution after taking power in 1949, but the practice has returned in recent years with increased exposure to the outside world and greater social mobility.

Mother, son reunited after 55 years

ROME (AP) — After 55 years, an elderly woman was reunited with the son she believed had died as an infant, Italian newspapers reported Sunday. In 1936, 19-year-old Anna Maria Mancini delivered a son out of wedlock. Mr. Grachev was in Norway to tour military installations, and meet with top military officials, including the Supreme Commander of Norwegian Forces, Adm. Torolf Rein.

Mother, son reunited after 55 years

ROME (AP) — After 55 years, an elderly woman was reunited with the son she believed had died as an infant, Italian newspapers reported Sunday. In 1936, 19-year-old Anna Maria Mancini delivered a son out of wedlock.

Fearing a scandal, her family conspired with the midwife, who told the girl her child was born "dead and horribly deformed," Mr. Grachev said. The midwife put the child away in an orphanage, the papers said.

Mother, son reunited after 55 years

Kazakhstan would not seek control over the weapons. Mr. Nazarbayev in August banned nuclear testing in Kazakhstan, whose Semipalatinsk site was for decades the main Soviet test range.

In Moscow, Mr. Yeltsin Monday ordered a one-year moratorium on nuclear tests on Russian territory, Interfax News Agency said.

Mother, son reunited after 55 years

Mr. Nazarbayev will discuss the future of the Soviet Union with political leaders led by Prime Minister John Major, chairman of the Group of Seven industrial nations. He will also meet bankers and petroleum industry chiefs.

Mother, son reunited after 55 years

Mr. Nazarbayev said his republic needs qualified consultants to exploit its resources, which include gas and oil reserves.

Mother, son reunited after 55 years

Mr. Nazarbayev later met Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd for talks on the Soviet economy and relations between the republics.

Mother, son reunited after 55 years

Mr. Hurd "expressed our concerns about the future control and safety of nuclear weapons in the Soviet Union," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

India's ex-premier arrested during protest



Britain, Vietnam sign deal to deport boat people

HONG KONG (R) — Britain and Vietnam have signed a deal in Hanoi allowing the deportation from Hong Kong camps of all boat people denied refugee status, Hong Kong Secretary for Security Alistair Asprey said Tuesday.

"This is a comprehensive agreement covering the return of all non-refugees," Mr. Asprey told a news conference. "It also covers all new arrivals."

He said Britain's ambassador to Hanoi, Peter Williams, signed the agreement Tuesday on behalf of the British and Hong Kong governments.

Mr. Asprey said it would apply initially to boat people arriving in the British colony and details on how to start deporting Vietnamese already here had yet to be hammered out.

"This understanding brings into effect an orderly return programme which will apply initially to all new arrivals found to be illegal immigrants and then subsequently to all other Vietnamese illegal immigrants already in detention centres."

Earlier this month Hanoi and London agreed to start limited deportations, but the deal covered only about 200 boat people out of over 63,000 in Hong Kong camps, and fell far short of Hong Kong officials' hopes of starting deportation for all non-refugees.

"Then we will have to wait until they become wealthy," said Mr. Asprey.

The earliest the troops could be withdrawn is 1994 or 1995, said Mr. Asprey, whose comments were translated by a Norwegian interpreter.

Police Superintendent N.B. Singh said charges against the

Mobutu tells Belgium to withdraw its troops

can peacekeepers, but that the Africans could intervene only if Zaire agreed.

Mr. Mobutu has made no comment on the suggestion.

Voice Of Zaire state radio Tuesday quoted Mr. Mobutu as demanding Belgium immediately withdraw its paratroopers.

The humanitarian mission entrusted to these troops — to protect the evacuation of Belgian nationals to their country — has ended," the radio quoted Mr. Mobutu as saying.

Opposition sources said Mr. Mobutu was expected to continue meetings begun Monday with his archrival, opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, and other leaders of the Sacred Union Coalition of more than 150 opposition parties.

The latest unrest erupted last week after Mr. Mobutu fired Tshisekedi, whom he appointed Prime Minister under pressure from Western governments after the September riots, and appointed Bernardin Mungu-Dika, a minor opposition figure branded a traitor by his colleagues for accepting the post.

Mr. Mobutu has vowed he will not share power with Mr. Tshisekedi, and the Sacred Union has said Mr. Tshisekedi is the only acceptable candidate for prime minister.

However, opposition sources said Monday they were discussing an attempted hard-line coup in August, said the failed putsch had proved the need to create a Russian National Guard.

Belgium, meanwhile, has been pressing the United States to intervene. Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said Monday that Washington could do more to force Mobutu to surrender power, suggesting the Zairean强人 still has U.S. support.

The Russian parliament's Defence Committee was already preparing draft laws on forming the guard, Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Yeltsin set out plans Monday to reduce the Soviet Foreign Ministry to a consultative body, prompting its chief spokesman to warn it would mean the end of the Soviet Union.

"To me the consequences would be that the Soviet Union as a single country would be no more," spokesman Vitaly Churkin told reporters after a regular briefing.

"It makes more sense politically to have joint armed forces in a community of sovereign states, with a unified command," Mr. Yeltsin added.

But if, against our wishes, the process of creating national armies in the republics goes ahead, we'll have no alternative but to form our own Russian army. But that will not be our choice."

The collapse of central Soviet power has prompted 10 out of 12 republics to declare independence. Several, including the powerful Ukraine, have pledged to build their own armies.

Such moves have aroused concern in the West about who would control the world's biggest nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Yeltsin, who led popular opposition to an attempted hard-line coup in August, said the failed putsch had proved the need to create a Russian National Guard.

He gave no details, but officials have said the guard will be a relatively small, highly-trained professional force that would in no way amount to a republican army.

The Russian parliament's Defence Committee was already preparing draft laws on forming the guard, Mr. Yeltsin said.

Azerbaijan and the Ukraine voted this month to set up their

own armies, and many other republics are creating separate national guards.

"I think it's inevitable at this stage that there will be spring up 12 armed forces on the territory of the former USSR," Mr. Churkin said.

Alarming to fear that Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan or Belarus might want to take control of Soviet nuclear weapons on their territory, Mr. Churkin said:

"I don't think that in a situation like this (Mr. Yeltsin's proposal) you can hold centralized control over nuclear forces in this country. That's my personal opinion."

Soviet leaders have frequently tried to reassure the West that Moscow will keep control over the country's nuclear arms and that they would remain under joint military control.

"Kazakhstan is among the eight republics that signed the (new Soviet) economic treaty. This treaty declared that there will be one management of the army and this includes nuclear missiles," he told a news conference on the first day of a visit to Britain.

"A separated management of nuclear arms, I do not recognise at all," he added.

Mr. Nazarbayev, one of the key republican leaders who is close to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, was elaborating on a policy he first outlined in the Soviet Union earlier this month.

He is